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E2Y664UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
*Extension Service*, WASHINGTON 25, D.C.

## VICTORY FARM VOLUNTEERS

May 20, 1947

For your information

TO ALL ASSISTANT STATE FARM LABOR SUPERVISORS, VFV:

Subject: News Letter

## PRIDE IN ACCOMPLISHMENT

No one can argue that the war did not change many of our attitudes and points of view. Among other things, most Americans learned to set higher values on food and agriculture, where before they took food for granted and thought of the farmer as a competitor instead of an indispensable neighbor. One of the brightest spots in this altered thinking came about in agriculture itself. For those who labored to produce food and fiber found new pride in their accomplishments.

The school students in Sevier County, Utah, who have been doing a big job in potatoes and sugar beets throughout the war, caught on to the idea that their role in food production was something to crow about. Their pride this year took the form of a school project in Monroe Junior High School, one of the county schools that contributed a large number of youth to farm labor. Monroe students not only made a survey of food harvested and money earned by school students in the county but fixed up charts to show the results. These they put on large pieces of cardboard, some of them as graphs, and addressed the material to the "U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C."

In the accompanying letter the Monroe students said that "we feel that the students of Sevier County have done a splendid job in helping the farmers out, and would like you to observe the work done."

We think it's a wonderful idea that Sevier youngsters are learning to work and take a productive part in an important county business enterprise. And we think it's just as significant that these boys and girls are proud of being a part of the farm labor force and that their schools take cognizance of this out-of-school experience.

## QUOTATION: SOUTHERN STYLE

Noted in South Carolina's 1946 Victory Farm Volunteer report:

That 407 boys and 192 girls were placed as live-ins last year, the largest number of any year since the program began in 1943. Supervisor W. L. Brannon thinks youth's opportunities in South Carolina in 1947 will be just about as great.

Add quotation from Brannon: "If the youth farm work experience program is properly handled and presented, it will continue to live and grow down through the years. It embodies practically all the good things various agencies (such as boys' and girls' camps, church, school outings, scouting, etc.) are trying to do for youth."



#### ABOUT PUBLICATIONS AND THINGS

Our 1947 publications are finally in the mail to all of you, with the rather tardy emergence of Farm Work for City Youth from the Government Printing Office. Despite the delay on this publication, GPO and others concerned with the printing job were good to us in getting the kind of paper and printing results which we wanted.

You'll be interested in some special orders we've had for our youth publications in recent weeks. The Girl Scouts National Organization asked us to send a copy of Farm Work for City Youth to each of their regional offices. The Camp Fire Girls, Inc., wanted extra copies of this publication, as well as Youth Can Help and the Want a Farm Job? leaflet, for exhibiting at their summer training courses. They also asked for 1,500 of the two leaflets to hand out to those who attend the courses.

In addition, Alex Maclaren, Director of the Ontario Farm Service Force, asked for 20 copies each of our 1947 publications and has offered to buy 1,000 copies of Farm Work for City Youth for wider distribution in his province.

And one more thing—we now have a reserve supply of Farm Work for City Youth which is available to those States which need extra copies.

#### MORE GROWER RESPONSIBILITY

P. L. Putnam says that Connecticut's tobacco camps will be carried on in practically the same way as last year.

But a few of the changes might interest you:

1. Extension will pay no transportation costs for camp youth this year. Last year Extension paid \$5 when transportation exceeded \$15.
2. Instead of paying half the subsistence of youth en route, growers will pay all of it this year.
3. Minimum wages of girls have been increased to 50 cents an hour.
4. Growers will pay for one over-all recreation director this year. This person was paid from Extension funds last year.

#### SAYS THE FARM JOURNAL (for May 1947)

"There will be teeth in the anti-child-labor provisions of the sugar beet subsidy this year, Colorado beet growers have been warned.

"The Production and Marketing Administration has told growers that their benefit checks will be reduced \$10 for each day a child less than 14 years is permitted to work in the beet fields.

"This is the first time since the start of World War II that a check has been made on child labor in the beet fields."

In checking with PMA on this news item, we find that it's really a matter of enforcing a provision which has been in the Sugar Act since 1937. The war made checking on child labor pretty difficult, of course. PMA also tells us that the same reduction will be made in beet growers' checks if they work youth between 14 and 16 more than 8 hours a day.



IN BRIEF....

Vermont's Mrs. Martha Buttrick is considering a camera contest for live-ins, especially those on remote farms, this year. If anyone has any ideas along this line, she'd be interested in them.... As of April 1, youth seasonal placements were 48 percent of last year's. We look for the figures to catch up later in the season....Whatcom County, Washington, will have a platoon program for the strawberry harvest this year--something new in the county's youth program. Whatcom's strawberry harvest will be double last year's....Russel Adams thinks Oregon may use more youth this year than last. In the Portland area, where they used 32 strawberry platoons last year, there are already orders for 47.

South Dakota's had tractor schools for city-town youth on schedule again this spring. Zach Wipf planned 7 one-day schools during April....South Carolina's W. L. Brannon wrote and mimeographed a special letter on the Federal publication, Farm Work for City Youth, when sending copies out to county agents and labor assistants. He included suggestions for distribution, including "school trustees, civic leaders, preachers, Sunday school leaders, etc."....Roy Davidson, Washington County, Oregon, farm labor assistant, says that he is having to turn down orders for platoons because he doesn't think it's "advisable to try to organize more groups than can be made into efficient working units, considering available leadership and workers."

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NEW ENGLAND ARRANGEMENT

John B. Casey, headmaster of Jamaica Plain High School in Boston, and for the past several years the representative of several New England Extension Services for recruiting Boston boys, is back on the job again this spring. This year, however, Casey will represent just Vermont and New Hampshire. The Massachusetts farm labor people have decided that there will be little need for Boston boys on Massachusetts farms this year.

IT'S FIELD TRIP TIME

Already en route to the Southland is Roberta Clark, of our VFV staff. Roberta left for Jackson, Miss., last week to see the youth workers in spring strawberry and vegetable harvesting in southern Mississippi with VFV Supervisor M. A. Rowzee. From Mississippi, she'll go to see tomato-plant pulling in southern Georgia, vegetable harvesting in the coastal area of South Carolina, and the strawberry harvests in Tennessee and Kentucky. W. L. Brannon will be on hand to show her the activities in South Carolina and VFV Supervisor Fred Colby will accompany her in seeing several harvest areas in Tennessee.

I'm planning a brief trip South myself. This week I expect to join Virginia's D. A. Tucker in the Norfolk area, where we will see the youth workers in the strawberry harvest. Later on, I expect to leave for several more extensive trips which are not yet definitely scheduled.

BORDERLINE BEANS

It was interesting to note the way northern New Hampshire snapbean growers have been paying the supervisors of their youth crews, in a recent report about last year's youth day-haul program from the Coos County farm labor assistant, Chester A. Marshall.

Marshall explains that supervisors who were assigned to each busload of youth received \$4 a day. These supervisors also kept work records and collected a nickel a day for insurance. Another group of women supervisors were hired to keep the youngsters at work, to keep order, and to help in weighing in. Farmers



paid these supervisors 1/4 cent a pound on the beans picked by their own group.

From what I have learned about supervisors' pay throughout the country, it's rather unusual to base the pay on youth accomplishments. I should like to know how the New Hampshire growers like this system. Presumably it's satisfactory unless there is a tendency for supervisors to push the youth too hard during the workday.

'CONSTANT OBJECTIVE'

Says J. R. Beck, Oregon farm labor supervisor, in his March report, "Safety in the transportation of workers in farm trucks is one of the constant objectives of the farm labor service." That's a significant statement. We've been happy to note increasing interest in transportation safety in many States.

Maybe some of you can echo these additional words from Beck's report, coming from one of his Oregon counties, "Continued plugging has shown definite results, as growers now provide suitable equipment in most cases without prompting. Minor improvements in side boards, end gates, or seats have often been necessary and growers have been very cooperative in making changes to increase the safety and comfort of the riders...."

'OUR YOUNG FOLKS'

And here's one more statement that seems worth quoting here before winding up this news letter. I have just run across an article by Dorothy Canfield Fisher in the General Federation of Women's Clubs publication, Youth Conservation. "Youth conservation," by the way, is the term a lot of people are now preferring to "juvenile delinquency."

As a part of an excellent article on the whole gamut of young people's problems today, Mrs. Fisher speaks out for opportunities to work for our young folks. "Not 'made work' or 'busywork,'" she says, "but real employment which will earn for them the beginnings of that personal independence which adolescents in our forefathers' days had taken as a matter of course. "Whether private industry can supply this work experience at a profit to itself or whether the state in useful, tax-supported, government-supervised public works will do so is a question which must be deferred by the much more brutal and urgent question of whether we are to go on living as Americans at all. Practically and realistically, this unsolved problem--preparing the mass of our youth for useful service--is not recognized as one of the main causes for the insane confusion of our times. Work is the truly indispensable vitamin."

Sincerely yours,

*Irvin H. Schmitt*

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(Copy to State supervisors,  
directors, editors)

